

REMARKS

Thorough examination of the application is sincerely appreciated.

Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for indicating allowability of claims 9 – 15 and allowable subject matter of claims 2, 3, 8 and 21 – 23.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 16 – 19 and 24 – 26 stand finally rejected.

To expedite the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Final Office Action, Applicant's claims are amended as follows:

Claims 3 and 22 are canceled without prejudice. The allowable subject matter of claim 3 is incorporated into independent claim 1, thereby making claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 4, 6 – 8 and 25 allowable. Similarly, the allowable subject matter of claim 22 is incorporated into independent claim 16, thereby making claim 16 and dependent claims 17 – 19, 21, 23, 24 and 26 allowable.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's correspondence and advance the prosecution of this case. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. It is believed that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is warranted per MPEP 706.07(e).

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Account No.

14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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